

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LIBRARY

6658

1941/43

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my second Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st December, 1940. Ministry of Health Circular No. 2314 dated the 26th March, 1941 requires this report to be prepared on the lines of my last year's report, namely, that it should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,956 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-1940.	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,199. <i>Cheshire</i> X
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,751. X
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£26,326.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£101. 18. 0d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	85	50	35	Birth rate per 1,000 of
	{ Illegitimate	1	1	-	the estimated resident population .. 13.87.
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	8	2	6	Rate per 1,000 total
	{ Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and still) births .. 86.95.
Deaths		81	45	36	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 13.06.
					After adjustment by the Comparability Factor 13.84.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	Nil.	-
Total	Nil.	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	58.13.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	58.82.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	..	..	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	12.
" " Measles (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1940.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

		M.	F.	Total.
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	1	1	1
4.	Whooping Cough	1	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	1	1	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	1
9.	Influenza	2	2	4
10.	Measles	1	1	1
11.	Ac: polio-myel: & polio-ence	1	1	1
12.	Ac: inf: enceph:	1	1	1
13.	Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F).	1	1	1
14.	Cancer of stomach or duodenum	3	4	7
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	3	1	4
17.	Diabetes	1	1	1
18.	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	3	1	4
19.	Heart Diseases	16	12	28
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	1
21.	Bronchitis	2	5	7
22.	Pneumonia	3	1	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	1	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	1
28.	Nephritis	1	2	3
29.	Puerperal & post-abort: sepsis	1	1	1
30.	Other maternal causes	1	1	1
31.	Premature Birth	1	1	1
32.	Congenital Debility & Malformations	2	1	3
33.	Suicide	1	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	5	2	7
36.	All other causes	2	3	5
		45	36	81

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The only new provision in the Town to be recorded relates to the establishment under the Government Evacuation Scheme of a Sick Bay with accommodation for 20 or so unaccompanied Evacuees who for reasons of health could not be billeted with the householders of the District. Very full use of this Sick Bay was made both by the Middlewich and neighbouring receiving Authorities during the year. Cases of scabies, Impetigo, lice infestation, etc. amongst Evacuees have been successfully dealt with during the year and I think the Middlewich Authority and their voluntary helpers are to be congratulated for being amongst the first Authorities to establish such a Sick Bay. It has proved a most useful asset to the Town and adjoining areas, and has been a welcome addition to the local health services.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - The quality of the water supply to all parts of the area has been proved by the examination of samples, two of which were taken during the course of the year. There has been no extension to existing mains but steps have been taken to improve the pressure of the supply.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. - No extension of the sewerage system has been carried out during the year.

Closet Accommodation - There is no change to report under this heading.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY OFFICERS (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS, 1935
ARTICLE 27 (18).

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	Number of Notices Served.		Results of service of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Notice	Remaining in hand
1. Dwelling Houses	190			12	12
2. Tents, Vans and Sheds	20			4	4
3. Courts, Yards and Passages	20			2	2
4. Pail and Privy Closets	45			4	4
5. Water Closets	875			23	23
6. Ashbins, Ashpits & Disposal	923			50	50
7. House Drainage	16			12	12
8. Ditches & Watercourses	20			14	14
9. Keeping of Animals	50			10	10
10. Slaughterhouses	20			-	-
11. Inspection of Food	426			2	2
12. Piggeries	10			4	4
13. Dairies & Milkshops	60			6	6
14. Factories & Workshops	60			4	4
15. Bakehouses	50			-	-
16. Offensive Trades	20			-	-
17. Overcrowding	40			-	-
18. Miscellaneous	52			6	6
Totals	2,897			153	153

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	No. of inspections.	No. of written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	10	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	40	3	-
Other premises.	10	1	-
Totals	60	6	-

All factories in good order, emergency exits provided and maintained, all supplied with Town's water for drinking purposes.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. - Owing to the war circumstances, attention has been possible only to the smaller items of house repairing.

Housing Acts, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

Owing to the influx of Evacuees (child and adult) and the establishment of Military Centres, some slight overcrowding was bound to occur, but investigation did not prove it to be very serious and it remedied itself without action having to be taken.

The billeting of evacuated children was carried out with great care and reflects great credit on all concerned.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The milk supply during the year has been very good, no complaints have been received as to the quality supplied. No samples were taken for analysis during the year.

(b) Meat and other Foods - No slaughtering of animals has taken place in this area during the year. Meat has varied in quality during the year but on the whole has been good. No cases of Anthrax were reported during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The outbreak of Diphtheria which the Town experienced at the end of 1939 reached its height during the month of January, 1940 and had subsided in the following March. Apart from this and an outbreak of Measles the year 1940 passed off well. The Isolation Hospital accommodation proved to be adequate to deal with all Infectious Diseases both amongst normal residents of the Town and Evacuees during 1940.

The end of 1940 saw a successful joint "drive" with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities against Diphtheria and thanks to the excellent help received from the Headmasters of Elementary and Secondary schools in the District, the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners, the County Health Department and the local Press, excellent progress was made, and the actual protective treatment commenced on a big scale early in January, 1941. The fact that the Scheme was a joint effort serving the needs of four independent County Districts led to much economy of time and effort.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	69	12	57

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis). during the year 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Scarlet Fever	3	3	-
Pneumonia	16	-	-
Erysipelas	9	1	-
Measles	159	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940,

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	1	5	-	-	-	-

Number of patients on register at 31.12.39 - 39.

Number of patients on register at 31.12.40 - 42.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of Bed-Bugs was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year and 3 houses were disinfested.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1941.

